S.No.	Country
1	2
143	Uruguay
144	Uzbekistan
145	Vanuatu

S.No.	Country
1	2
146	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
147	Viet Nam
148	Zambia

H-1B and L-1 VISAS

621. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian professionals in IT industry receive the largest share of H-1 B and L-1 visas;

(b) if so, the details thereof especially from Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the share of such visas in future?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Indian companies, mostly IT companies, received 12810 H-IB and L-I visas in 2008 out of a total of 85,000 H-1B visas. Infosys (4559), Wipro (2678), Satyam(1917) and Tata Consultancy Services (1539) were the largest users of H-1B visas in 2008. H-1B visa is given to workers in speciality occupations and L-I to all intra-company transferees; irrespective of their sectors. It is, therefore, not possible to ascertain what percentage were given to IT professionals.

(c) Government of India have urged a higher allocation of H-IB and L-I visas for Indian professionals by the US Government.

Military base in Katchatheevu Island

622. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the report that Sri Lankan Government is taking steps to build military base in the Katchatheevu Island;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) Sri Lanka has denied any plans to build a military base in Katchatheevu. The issue was raised with the Sri Lankan Government during the visit of a delegation led by Senior Advisor to Sri Lankan President, Basil Rajapaksa, on June 24, 2009. The delegation again clarified that it does not contemplate putting up any military structures at Katchatheevu.

Hacking of Indian computers

623. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chinese hackers had allegedly infiltrated computers at the Indian Embassy in Washington recently; and

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken/proposes to take against such hacking in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) A report appeared in 'The Times of India', dated March 30, 2009, which indicated that Chinese hackers had infiltrated at least 1295 PCs in 103 countries including the Indian Embassy in Washington. The report was based on the findings of research conducted by the Munk Centre for International Studies at University of Toronto over ten months. Government keeps all such developments under review and takes measures as required to ensure the security of Government's electronic communications and files.

Permanent Membership of UN Security Council

624. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has again taken up the question of grant of permanent membership of the UN Security Council to India with the new US administration following the change in US Presidency having been taken out by Mr. Barak Obama; and

(b) if so, the US Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) Yes. Government has discussed expansion of the UN Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories and India's aspiration to be a permanent member of an expanded Security Council with US administrations, including the current administration.

(b) While the US has stated in the United Nations that it supports expansion of the Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories, it has not expressed support for a permanent seat for India in an expanded Security Council.

Funds for Cultural Trust from UK

625. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the State Government of West Bengal has been received in his Ministry for permission to obtain funds from Calcutta Tercentenary Trust, United Kingdom to construct cultural complex at Victoria Memorial, Kolkata;

(b) if so, the details of the request; and

(c) the action that has so far been contemplated by his Ministry on the above request?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) This Ministry has no record of any such request received from the State Government of West Bengal.

(c) Does not arise.